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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

REGARDING: 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with concern in regard to the plight and mistreatment of poultry in the egg industry.

With respect for the life of our fellow creatures, and also in conjunction with human health factors, I strongly urge the FDA to act on the April 1998 petition that requested a ban on forced molting. Aside from the cruelty factor and that it (forced molting) is not natural, studies have indicated that this practice has promoted disease as it destroys the animals' immune system. This, in turn, is the major cause of

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infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and even....
The consumers of these eggs, which is us?
Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and
regulations stipulating egg refrigeration temperatures
are not enough!

— The cruelty and contamination are linked
without a doubt. These situations will be occurring
at the other "corporate" livestock facilities too,
because anywhere where you have mass production
being the main focus (for the \$), you do not
have the care and carefulness that assure
proper procedures and guidelines which result
in a healthy product. ^{Corporations are} Larger IS NOT better.
Larger is ruthless and cold-hearted, cutting
corners when and where they can. All that
matters is the almighty \$. The small farmer
cares for and nurtures his animals and takes
pride in the compliments he receives about his
milk, eggs, and meat products. * These are
the products with little or usually NO additives.
Therefore, fewer health problems for the consumers.

Please support the ban on forced molting
without delay... for all of us. This would be a
step in the right direction.

Thank You.

Cindy K. Ekiberry

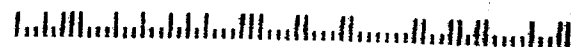


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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C654

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C655
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